Writing that does not sound machine-made

The words and shapes that give it away — and what to write instead · Mikkay Technologies

A. REPLACE THESE WORDS

AI-favourite word	Write	AI-favourite word	Write
delve into	examine	holistic	complete
leverage	use	multifaceted	many-sided
utilize	use	nuanced	subtle
streamline	simplify	pivotal / crucial	important
empower	enable	cutting-edge	modern
unlock	achieve	transformative	far-reaching
underscore	show	myriad / plethora	many
facilitate	help	realm	area
foster	encourage	landscape	situation
navigate	handle	tapestry	mix
robust	strong	paradigm	model
seamless	smooth	cornerstone	foundation
comprehensive	full	a testament to	shows

B. DELETE THESE — they add nothing

Phrase	Do this	Phrase	Do this
In today's fast-paced world	delete	due to the fact that	because
It is important to note that	delete	in order to	to
It is worth noting that	delete	a wide range of	many
When it comes to	for / in	plays a crucial role	matters
In the ever-evolving…	delete	shed light on	explain
Moreover, / Furthermore,	also / and	Moreover, / Furthermore,	once per page at most
In conclusion,	drop it, or 'To conclude'	serves as a / stands as a	is

C. SENTENCE SHAPES THAT READ AS MACHINE-WRITTEN

- **“Not only X but also Y”** — the single most common giveaway. Write two sentences.
- **“By doing X, you can Y”** — a marketing shape, not an academic one.
- **“From A to B, from C to D”** — stacked pairs. Say it once, plainly.
- **“Three key factors…”** and then a numbered list — state the factors in prose instead.
- **Heavy dashes** — one or two in a whole document, not one per paragraph.
- **Sentences over 35 words** — split them. Long unbroken sentences are the other strong signal.

D. THE FIVE HABITS THAT ACTUALLY PROTECT YOU

1. **Lead with the fact, not the framing.** “The return shows N2,100,000; the receipt book shows N2,000,000.” Not “It is important to note that a discrepancy exists.”
2. **Your own data in every paragraph** — figures, dates, places, what you saw. Machine text has no borrowed numbers.
3. **Name your evidence** — “According to the 2024 returns…” not “Studies have shown…”.
4. **Keep your own voice.** If you would not say it to a colleague, do not write it in the paper.
5. **Declare AI use where the rules require it.** A declaration costs nothing; a concealment can cost a career.

The honest limit: no tool can promise a detector will not flag a text — detectors work on statistics and have flagged human writing, including published books. Removing the vocabulary below removes most of the giveaway; the rest is your own subject, your own data and your own sentences.